



INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

2009



WESTERN GREAT BASIN INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	Page
Weather and Fuels	2
Fire Occurrence	3
Resource Requests	4
By Type and Office Ordering	5
By Type and Agency Ordering	5
5 and 10 Year Averages	6
 Aircraft Summary	 7
 Crew Summary	 8
 Equipment Summary	 9
 Overhead Summary	 10
 Top 20 Positions Unable To Fill	 11
 Appendices	
A. Wildland Fire Statistical Summary	12
B. Large Fires	13
C. Incident Management Team Assignments	14
D. Smokejumper Summary	15

2009 Weather and Fuels

WEATHER

The winter season of 2008/2009 was under the influence of a La Nina, and had near normal precipitation totals with slightly below normal temperatures. Cool temperatures led to a substantial amount of the precipitation being deposited as snow, and by April 1st, snowpack varied from 80% to 125% of normal at various locations across the state. This was the third year in a row of substantial winter rain/snowfall in Nevada (after 5 years of drought). This was reflected in the US Drought Monitor products for Nevada: most areas that had been listed “severe” at the end of 2007, dropped to “moderate” or “abnormally dry” by spring 2009.

Snowpack levels were quick to fall, however, as a dry May combined with a series of unusually warm days melted the snow and dropped snowpack to 0-25% of normal. The US Drought Monitor reflected this change in weather with “severe” drought areas showing up in the far west and spreading out in central Nevada.

The La Nina dissipated and reversed from May to June, becoming a weak but strengthening El Nino. This may have contributed to a cool and wet June, with record rainfall amounts at several locations. A series of wet Pacific storms occurred during June, along with an early onset to the southwest Monsoon. The storms brought numerous lightning strikes, but sufficient moisture prevented fire starts from becoming large fires.

July was generally dry and warm under a strengthening El Nino, and monsoon showers were being pushed eastward by stronger westerly winds. Lightning decreased this month due to a strong ridge of high pressure over the western states, but drying fuels made the state more vulnerable to large fire occurrence. August showed the first signs of an early end to fire season: several cold Pacific storms pushed through the high pressure ridge, bringing showers, much cooler temperatures and elevated RH to northern Nevada for several days at a time. At the same time, wet monsoon flow made its way into southern Nevada, shutting off chances for large fire activity there.

By September, southern Nevada was officially out of fire season. Northern and western Nevada, having much dryer conditions, ended fire season mid-October.

FUELS

Cool temperatures and near-normal rainfall during the winter of 2008/2009 generally led to normal fuel loading across the state. Greenup was in full swing by early May, and large fuels were just beginning to dry. Hot and dry weather during May led to fine fuels being completely cured in the far south, while a few more Pacific storms moved through northern Nevada, dropping enough rain to keep central Nevada in transition and contributing to active greenup in northern Nevada.

Fuels were strongly affected an abnormally cool and wet June. Late season showers as well as an early onset of the SW monsoon resulted in a second greenup, decreasing fire potential across the state. At the same time, a fungus affected grasslands in the Humboldt Basin, resulting in dead and matted grass not likely to carry large fire.

July was generally dry and warm, with stronger westerly winds pushing monsoon rains off to the east. The second greenup started to dry completely, and a couple of large fires resulted. August, however, had a return of periodic Pacific storms, bringing several days at a time of much cooler temperatures and elevated RH. Even when lightning accompanied the storms, a rise in RH (signified by low ERC values) prevented rapid fire spread.

Completely cured fuels during a warm and dry September did nothing to overcome a lack of ignitions, and fire season gradually succumbed to cooler temperatures and shorter days. Reno NWS recorded not a single dry lightning event for the entire summer.

FIRE OCCURENCE

The Western Great Basin (WGB) had 687 fires for 33,365 acres in 2009, representing 78 percent of the 10 year average number of fires and 70% of the 10 year average number of acres burned. Only 16 large fires (fires greater than 100 acres in timber or 300 acres in grass or brush or an IMT assigned) were reported in 2009, compared to 22 large fires in 2008 and the 75 large fires in 2007. The 10 year average is 54 large fires.

Initial attack efforts were successful 97.6% of the time. The five year average for IA efficiency is 93.2% based on number of large fires compared to total number of fires.

Western Great Basin never reached Preparedness Level 4 or 5, but held at Preparedness Level 3 from July 19 through August 15 for a total of 28 days. The Ely BLM Field Office had the most fires this season with 197 fires (all lightning caused!) which was 29% of the total number of fires for the WGB, while the Carson BLM Field Office had the greatest burned area for a total of 25,775 acres (77% of the total acreage burned in the WGB).

Nationally, significant fire activity early in the year threatened to set 2009 above average for both number of fires and acres burned, wetter conditions across many parts of the nation as the year progressed, coupled with effective fire management, helped to restrain fire activity by mid-year. Despite the largest fire in Los Angeles County's (California) recorded history (Station fire), by the end of August the nationwide acreage burned by wildfire was very near the 2000–2009 average and thereafter declined below average. Based upon data provided by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) fire activity in 2009 ranked fifth highest (sixth lowest) out of the past decade in terms of number of fires — about 1 percent below the 2000-2008 average. Acres burned in 2009 were 14.5 percent below the 2000-2008 average, ranking seventh highest (fourth lowest) since 2000. Average fire size also ranked seventh highest out of the 2000-2009 period, at about 14 percent below average.

The year 2009 finished with a total of 77,315 fires having burned 5,914,821 acres (2,393,463 hectares) nationally. The number of fires was 966 fires below the 2000 – 2008 national average of 78,281. Acreage burned across the nation in 2009 was 1,002,554 acres (405,719 hectares), or about 15 percent, below the 2000 – 2008 average. Average fire size in 2009 was 76.5 acres (40.0 hectares) per fire, which was 11.9 acres (4.8 hectares) per fire below the 2000 – 2008 average, or about 14 percent smaller than average. Alaska lead the geographic areas with 2,951,593 acres burned.

RESOURCE REQUESTS PROCESSED

The Western Great Basin Coordination Center processed 3,595 individual requests including overhead associated with aircraft, crew and equipment orders. This figure is 42 percent of the 5 year average and 44.5 percent of the 10 year average. Requests are often placed several times before they are filled, returned “unable to fill” (UTF) or cancelled by local dispatch centers and other centers outside of the geographic area. The total request transactions performed by the WGBCC was 9,097.

The 282 Aircraft requests of 2009 were 34 percent the 5 year average of 829 requests, 88 Crew requests for 2009 were 18 percent of the 5 year average, and Equipment requests were 35 percent of the 5 year average with 203 requests for 2009, with all three categories being the lowest number of requests since 1997. Overhead requests were 47 percent of the 5 year average with 3,011 requests, the lowest number of overhead requests since 2004.

WGBCC Total Request Transactions Processed
(by Resource Type and Office Placing the Order)
2009

<i>Ordering Office</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Crews</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Overhead</i>	<i>Supply</i>	<i>Total</i>
NV-EIC	16	3	17	65	0	101
NV-CNC	7	4	5	67	0	83
NV-SFC	116	32	83	966	3	1200
NV-ECC	9	11	1	248	0	269
NV-LIC	8	5	8	137	0	158
NV-WBC	29	0	0	13	8	51
IN NV	185	55	114	1496	11	1861
UT-EBC	23	15	6	365	0	409
CA-ONC	24	5	33	303	0	369
CA-OSC	16	6	29	331	0	382
OR-NWC	18	6	3	181	0	208
NM-SWC	10	1	2	97	0	110
MT-NRC	2	0	0	41	0	43
CO-RMC	3	0	0	13	0	16
MN-EAC	0	0	0	3	0	3
GA-SAC	1	0	16	100	0	117
AK-ACC	0	0	0	76	0	76
ID-NIC	0	0	0	2	0	2
AU-VICC	0	0	0	3	0	3
OUT NV	97	33	89	1515	0	1734
Totals	282	88	203	3011	11	3595

WGBCC Total Number of Request Transactions
(by Resource Type and Agency Generating Request)
2009

Agency	Aircraft	Crews	Equipment	Overhead	Supply	Total
BLM	128	47	100	1348	3	1626
USFS	89	37	68	1362	0	1556
Nevada State	12	0	4	4	0	20
BIA/Tribe	0	0	0	11	0	11
NPS	4	2	13	104	0	123
FWS	0	0	3	23	0	26
Centers / GACC*	35	0	0	35	8	77
State (not NV)	13	2	15	117	0	147
County/City	0	0	0	2	0	2
Other**	1	0	0	5	0	6
Totals	282	88	203	3011	11	3595

* "Centers / GACC" includes Interagency Centers, GACC's including WBC, and NICC.

** "Other" includes Australia, FEMA and DOE.

**TOTAL RESOURCE REQUESTS BY YEAR
AND
5 AND 10 YEAR AVERAGES**

Year	Aircraft	Crews	Equipment	Overhead	Supply*	Total
1994	547	420	736	2,256		3,959
1995	319	176	297	972		1,764
1996	1,060	819	877	3,673		6,429
1997	240	84	109	501		939
1998	353	141	304	1,576		2,374
1999	1,133	660	1,434	4,783		8,010
2000	1,249	825	1,255	4,499		7,828
2001	1,081	641	1,233	4,278		7,233
2002	592	457	925	4,116		6,090
2003	297	213	341	4,890	97	5,838
2004	336	224	309	2,624	66	3,579
2005	1,157	729	2,926	4,471	137	9,420
2006	1,403	780	1,632	9,755	28	13,598
2007	904	586	1,138	7,768	100	10,496
2008	347	167	422	7,615	32	8,583
5-yr. Avg	829	497	1,285	6,446	73	8,586
10-yr. Avg	850	528	1,162	5,480	77	8,068
2009	282	88	203	3011	11	3,595

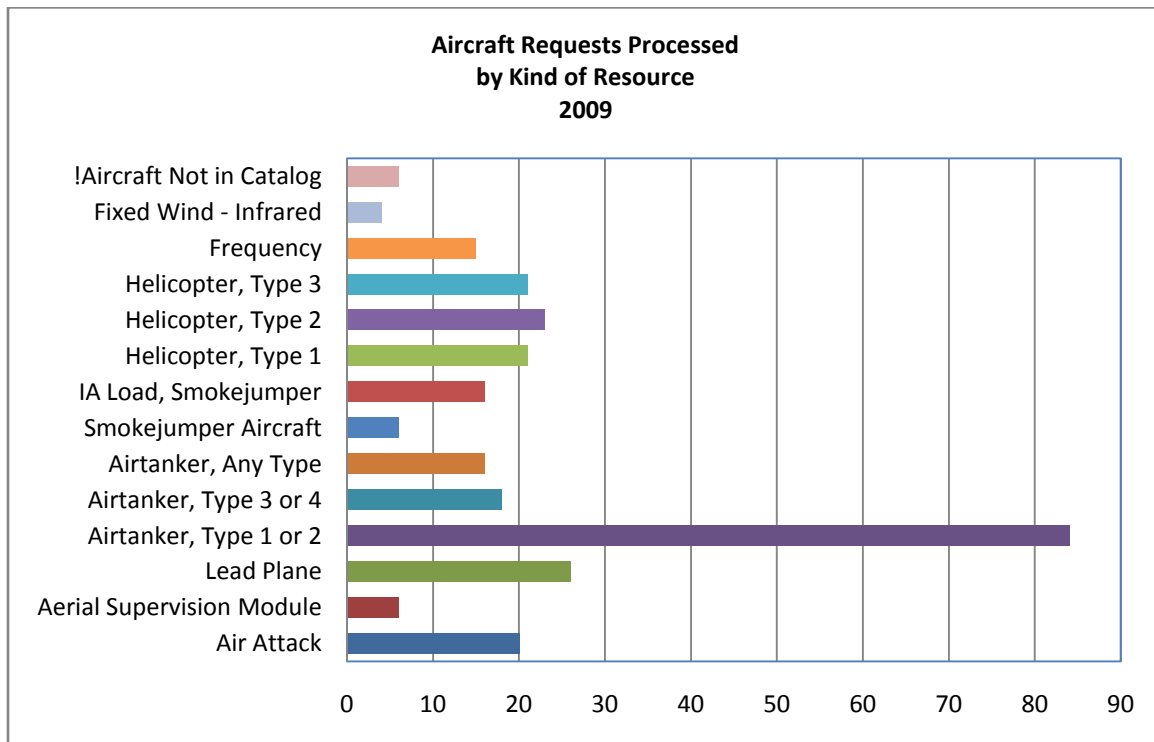
*2003 is the first year that Supply has been counted as a separate category. Previously, many items now considered supplies were counted as equipment (radios, etc)

Distinct Aircraft Requests Processed
(by Resource Type and Agency Initiating Request)

2009

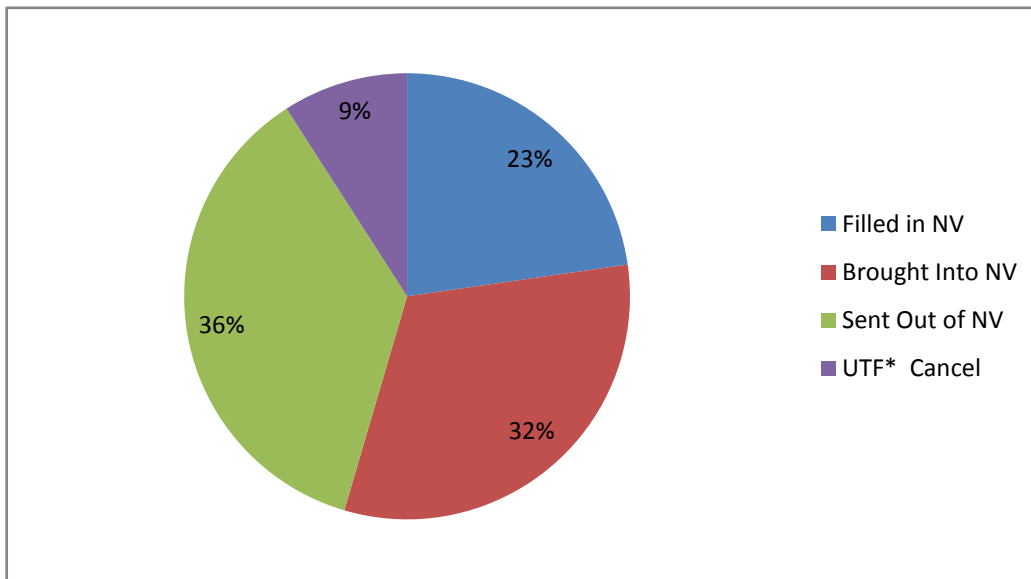
Resource Type	BIA	BLM	USFS	NDF	NPS	WBC	OTH	TOTAL
Air Attack	0	16	3	0	0	0	1	20
Aerial Supervision Module	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	6
Lead Plane	0	9	10	1	0	0	6	26
Airtanker, Type 1 or 2	0	36	20	7	1	11	9	84
Airtanker, Type 3 or 4	0	8	8	2	0	0	0	18
Airtanker, Any Type	0	6	7	0	0	1	2	16
Smokejumper Aircraft	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	6
IA Load, Smokejumper	0	3	10	0	0	3	0	16
Helicopter, Type 1	0	2	11	0	2	4	2	21
Helicopter, Type 2	0	14	7	0	0	2	0	23
Helicopter, Type 3	0	9	8	1	1	2	0	21
Frequency	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	15
Fixed Wind - Infrared	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Temporary Flight Restriction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
!Aircraft Not in Catalog	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	6
Totals		128	89	12	4	29	20	282

* "OTH" includes Other States, Counties, Other Federal, Centers and GACCs.



Distinct Crew Requests Processed By Type 2009					
Type	Filled in NV	Brought Into NV	Sent Out of NV	UTF* Cancel	Total
Strike Team, Type 1	0	1	0	1	2
Type 1	12	14	17	3	46
Type 1 or 2IA	2	7	5	1	15
Type 2 IA	0	5	4	1	10
Type 2 IA or 2	1	0	1	1	3
Type 2	5	1	4	1	11
Camp	0	0	1	0	1
Type Any	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	20	28	32	8	88

* Cancel or UTF in or outside of Western Great Basin.



Crew Requests

Distinct Equipment Requests Processed (by Resource Type) 2009					
Resource Type	Filled In NV	Brought Into NV	Sent Out of NV	UTF*** Cancel	Total
Dozers	0	0	5	6	11
Engines	15	22	57	20	114
Water Tenders	1	0	0	1	2
Transportation*	0	0	0	0	0
Trailers	1	0	1	1	3
Mobile Food Service	0	2	0	0	2
Shower Units	0	2	0	0	2
Miscellaneous Equipment**	3	51	2	13	69
Totals	20	77	65	41	203

* Transportation category includes: Bus, Coach, Crew Bus, Lowboy, Pickup, Stakeside, SUV and Rental Car.

** Miscellaneous Equipment category includes: Radio Kits, Sat Phones, Other Trucks (Fuel, Grey Water, Mechanic, Refer, Crash Rescue, etc), Handwash, Palm IR.

*** Includes requests UTF'd from NICC and other GACC's.

Total does not include overhead associated with these requests.

Percentage of Contract Equipment Used

Resource	NV in NV	Into NV	Sent Out	Overall
Dozers	0	0	0	0%
Engines	3	0	3	6%
Water Tenders	1	0	0	100%

**Overhead Requests Processed
by Incident Type
2009**

Incident Type	Filled In NV	Brought Into NV	Sent Out of NV	UTF** Cancel	Totals
Wildfire	386	849	702	359	2296
Prescribed	56	21	74	14	165
Preparedness	3	47	200	110	360
Other Support	10	12	91	13	126
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Hurricane/Typhoon	0	0	0	0	0
Thunderstorms/Tornado/Wind	0	0	0	0	0
Earthquake	0	0	0	0	0
Program Support - Resource	1	2	0	3	6
Training - OJT	0	0	1	0	1
Training - Proficiency	0	0	2	1	3
Accident – Vehicle	0	0	3	0	3
Fire – Rehab	21	0	1	0	22
Fire - Other	21	3	1	3	28
Severe Winter Weather	0	0	0	1	1
Flooding	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	498	934	1075	504	3011

** Includes NV requests that were UTF'd by NICC and other GACC's.

TOP 20 POSITIONS UNABLE TO FILL

	POSITION	CODE	# of UTF
1	FIRE FIGHTER TYPE 2	FFT2	90
2	FIREFIGHTER, TYPE 1	FFT1	29
3	ENGINE BOSS	ENGB	23
4	SMOKEJUMPER	SMKJ	23
5	HELICOPTER RAPPELER	HRAP	20
6	SECURITY SPECIALIST - LEVEL 2	SEC2	19
7	CREW BOSS	CRWB	15
8	DOZER BOSS	DOZB	15
9	SECURITY SPECIALIST - LEVEL 1	SEC1	12
10	HELICOPTER CREWMEMBER	HECM	9
11	HELICOPTER MANAGER, SINGLE RESOURCE	HMGB	9
12	INITIAL ATTACK DISPATCHER	IADP	8
13	AIR TACTICAL GROUP SUPERVISOR	ATGS	7
14	DIVISION/GROUP SUPERVISOR	DIVS	7
15	SAFETY OFFICER, LINE	SOFR	7
16	SAFETY OFFICER, TYPE 2	SOF2	7
17	HELIBASE MANAGER, 1 TO 3 HELICOPTERS	HEB2	6
18	HELIBASE MANAGER, 4 OR MORE HELOS	HEB1	6
19	FALLER CLASS A	FALA	5
20	AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER	ACDP	4

Wildland Fire Statistical Summary 2009

Unit/Agency	Human		Lightning		Total Fires	Total Acres
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres		
Eastern Nevada Agency (Elko Portion)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Nevada Agency (Winnemucca Portion)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Nevada Agency (Sierra Front Portion)	2	0	8	2,440	10	2,440
Eastern Nevada Agency (Ely Portion)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duck Valley Tribe	1	1	0	0	0	0
Bureau of Indian Affairs / Tribes	3	1	8	2,440	11	2,441
Battle Mountain Field Office	4	323	7	2	11	325
Carson City Field Office	22	24,472	40	1,303	62	25,775
Elko Field Office	11	246	26	681	37	927
Ely Field Office	0	0	197	1,642	197	1,642
Southern Nevada District	38	189	28	3	66	192
Winnemucca Field Office	21	98	13	520	34	618
Bureau of Land Management	96	25,328	311	4,151	407	29,479
Ash Meadows NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Desert NWR	0	0	9	150	9	150
Moapa Valley NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pahranagat NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruby Lake NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stillwater NWR	0	0	0	0	0	0
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	0	0	9	150	9	150
Great Basin National Park	0	0	3	2	3	2
Lake Mead NRA	6	0	3	20	9	20
National Park Service	6	0	6	22	12	22
Private Lands under Central Nevada Dispatch	4	12	0	0	4	12
Private Lands under Ely Dispatch	4	0	2	0	6	0
Private Lands under Elko Dispatch	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Lands under Las Vegas Dispatch	21	11	3	2	24	13
Private Lands under Sierra Front Dispatch	4	16	20	28	24	44
Private Lands	33	39	25	30	58	69
Northern Region	15	14	8	240	23	254
Southern Region	5	13	6	0	11	13
Western Region	6	616	7	3	13	619
Nevada Division of Forestry	26	643	21	243	47	886
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Elko Area)	12	20	0	0	12	20
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Winnemucca Area)	1	1	7	1	8	2
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Sierra Front & Central Area)	19	13	64	219	83	232
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Ely Area)	1	0	1	0	2	0
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Las Vegas Area)	12	1	26	63	38	64
U.S. Forest Service	45	35	98	283	143	318
Department of Defense (Nellis AFB)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Energy (Nevada Test Site)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geographic Area Totals	209	26,046	478	7,319	687	33,365

*All statistics have not been verified against the official agency databases.

Western Great Basin Large Fires 2009

Incident Number	Incident Name	Dispatch Center	County	Start Date	End Date	IC Name	Team Type	Cause	Size (Acres)
NV-SND-0021	Toquop	LVICC	Clark	7/08/09	7/13/09	Picazo		H	137
NV-CCD-0660	Redrock	SFIDC	Lassen	7/15/09	7/22/09	Whalen	2	H	10,549
NV-CCD-0659	Trailer 1	SFIDC	Lassen	7/15/09	7/22/09	Whalen	2	H	1,349
NV-ELD-000120	Sams	EICC	Lincoln	7/18/09	9/4/09	Teel		L	831
NV-ELD-00122	Upper Springs	EICC	Lincoln	7/19/09	7/23/09	Washburn		L	3,852
NV-ELD-0119	Sawmill	EICC	Lincoln	07/20/09	09/04/09	Teel		L	311
NV-EKD-000664	Rossi	EIDC	Elko	07/23/09	07/23/09	Basso		H	234
NV-HTF-0756	Boulder	SFIDC	Lyon	07/24/09	07/29/09	Washam	3	L	200
NV-NNS-000684	Independence	EIDC	Elko	07/26/09	07/30/09	Uhlig		L	510
NV-WID-000132	Limbo	CNIDC	Pershing	07/31/09	08/03/09	Burt		L	478
NV-CCD-0848	Wildcat	SFIDC	Washoe	08/02/09	08/05/09	Britt		L	2,265
NV-ELD-214	Cottonwood	EICC	Lincoln	08/06/09	10/14/09	Widmer		L	145
NV-CCD-0987	Hoyt	SFIDC	Churchill	08/20/09	08/24/09	Suwyn	2	H	10,670
NV-NWS-1176	Miller	SFIDC	Lyon	09/24/09	08/27/09	Friend		H	616
NV-BMD-000182	China	CNIDC	Lander	09/25/09	09/27/09	Rader		H	322
NV-ELD-243	Quakin Aspen	EICC	Lincoln	09/28/09	10/14/09	Widmer		L	296

2009 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM ASSIGNMENTS IN NEVADA

INC_NUMBER	INC_NAME	TYPE	RES_NAME	DAYS
NV-CCD-000660	REDROCK (SOUTH)	WF	TEAM - IMT - T2 - LONG - WB - WHALEN	7
NV-CCD-000987	HOYT	WF	TEAM - IMT - T2 - LONG - EB - SUWYN	6

2009 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM ASSIGNMENTS OUTSIDE OF NEVADA

INC_NUMBER	INC_NAME	TYPE	RES_NAME	DAYS
WY-BTF-000037	Gunsight	WF	TEAM - IMT - T2 -SHORT - WB - SVALBERG/DYKEHOUSE	5

2009 BUYING TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

INC_NAME	INC_NAME	TYPE	RES_NAME	DAYS
NONE				

WF = WILDFIRE

For Smokejumper Action Summary 2009, please visit:
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/wgbc/Smokejumpers/smkjstats.htm>